



NAESP Advocacy Update

Politics and Policy Report January 2017

The following items are an update to the previous report issued on January 8, 2017.

- The confirmation hearing of Betsy DeVos has been postponed to January 17 at 5 pm. See press statement issued last night below. Senator Alexander still plans to hold the vote on DeVos on January 24, allowing additional time for her to complete the ethics paperwork that is outstanding.

UNITED STATES SENATE

For Immediate Release

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Alexander, Murray Joint Statement on Betsy DeVos Hearing Date

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 – Senate education committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) today announced the committee will move its confirmation hearing for Betsy DeVos to January 17. Alexander and Murray said: “At the request of the Senate leadership to accommodate the Senate schedule, we have agreed to move the nomination hearing of Betsy DeVos to Tuesday, January 17th at 5:00 pm.”

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- The U.S. Department of Education is extending the deadline for the applications for the 2017-2018 School Ambassador Fellowship to Monday, February 6, 2017. The application can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/schoolfellowship/index.html>.
- Following is an announcement of an ESSA webinar series the U.S. Department of Education will be hosting on state planning and regulations over the coming weeks. Please see below for additional information and how to sign up if interested. The full text of the letter released on Friday to state chiefs is also provided.

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ESSA Weekly Webinar Series

When: Wednesdays from 2:00-3:30pm EST

Schedule:

Please note that the schedule is subject to change. The Department will provide a detailed agenda prior to each session. Note that you must register for each webinar.

January 11, 2017

Title I, Part A Assessment Notice of Final Regulations

Register [here](#).

January 18, 2017

Consolidated State Plan: Consultation, Performance Management, and Assessment Requirements

Register [here](#).

January 25, 2017

Consolidated State Plan: Supporting Excellent Educators and All Students

Register [here](#).

February 1, 2017

Consolidated State Plan: Accountability Systems: Long-term Goals and Indicators

Register [here](#).

February 8, 2017

Consolidated State Plan: Accountability Systems: Annual Meaningful Differentiation and School Identification

Register [here](#).

February 15, 2017

Consolidated State Plan: School Improvement and Support

Register [here](#).

February 22, 2017

No webinar

March 1, 2017

Consolidated State Plan: Program-specific requirements

Register [here](#).

March 8, 2017

State plan submission

Register [here](#).

January 6, 2017

Dear Chief State School Officers,

Thank you for your continued leadership and progress in implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). I am pleased to share that, today, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) released a series of resources to support States in their transition to the ESSA. The Consolidated State Plan guidance, State and Local Report Cards guidance, and High School Graduation Rate guidance provide additional clarity on the role of States, districts, and schools under the ESSA to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education and that they graduate high school prepared for success in college and career.

ESSA Consolidated State Plan Guidance

The Consolidated State Plan guidance is intended to support each State Educational Agency (SEA) in developing a consolidated State plan that meets all statutory and regulatory requirements with regard to improved student academic achievement and increased quality of instruction. Further, it will guide peer reviewers who will evaluate the degree to which each State plan meets those requirements and is likely to support a comprehensive and coherent set of improvements to support all students. The document includes both required components of the consolidated State plan, as well as considerations for both SEAs and peer reviewers to improve the quality of such plans.

ESSA State and Local Report Cards Guidance

In an effort to increase transparency and inform students, educators, parents, and others invested in the success of our students and schools, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the ESSA, maintains requirements for SEAs and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to prepare and disseminate report cards that provide information on SEA, LEA, and school performance and progress in an understandable and uniform format. The State and Local Report Cards guidance is intended to assist SEAs and LEAs in implementing the report card requirements under Title I, Part A of the ESEA and implementing regulations in 34 C.F.R. §§ 200.30 through 200.37 beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

ESSA High School Graduation Rate Guidance

Student graduation from high school with a regular high school diploma is an important indicator of school success and one of the most significant indicators of student college and career readiness. The High School Graduation Rate guidance provides States, LEAs, and schools with information about how to implement the graduation rate requirements in the ESEA, as amended by the ESSA and implementing regulations in 34 C.F.R. §§ 200.34. Under the ESEA, each State and LEA must calculate and report on its annual report card a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, disaggregated by subgroups. A uniform and accurate measure of the four-year high school graduation rate that is comparable across States and consistently reported over time is critical to understanding the successes and challenges for schools in ensuring that all students graduate from high school.

The Department will host a weekly webinar series beginning on January 11, 2017, to assist States in preparing a consolidated State plan that meets the requirements in the ESSA and the Accountability, State Plans, and Data Reporting regulation. Each webinar will review specific requirements in the consolidated State plan, including any related guidance or technical assistance materials. Please see the following webinar schedule for a list of topics and registration information.

A State may choose to submit its consolidated State plan or individual program plans on April 3, 2017, or September 18, 2017. Each SEA submitting a consolidated State plan must use the required [template](#). **As a reminder, we ask that you inform your OSS contact of your intended State plan submission date by January 10, 2017.**

Thank you for your continued efforts and engagement in this important work to ensure that all students have access to an excellent education. As always, any questions may be directed to your contact in the Office of State Support at OSS.[State name]@ed.gov (e.g., OSS.Louisiana@ed.gov). ESSA regulations and guidance can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/>; technical assistance resources related to the ESSA can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ose/oss/technicalassistance/>. We look forward to working with you to fully implement the ESEA.

Sincerely,

Ann Whalen
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
Delegated the Duties of Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: State Title I Directors
State Title II Directors
State Title III Directors